



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor  
LESTER A. SNOW, Secretary for Natural Resources



September 15, 2010

Senator Fran Pavley  
Capitol Office - Room 4035  
Sacramento, California 95814

Assemblymember Jared Huffman  
Capitol Office - Room 3120  
Sacramento, California 95814

To Chair of Senate Natural Resources and Assembly Parks and Wildlife (Pavley and Huffman)

Dear Chairs Pavley and Huffman:

Last fall we made history by securing bipartisan approval of a package of bills designed to move California into the 21st century in the way we manage our water resources. I am proud of this joint accomplishment and my departments and other state agencies are hard at work implementing the suite of new laws. Significant progress has been made already as is evidenced by the launch of the new Delta Stewardship Council, new Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, and a newly formatted Delta Protection Commission. I have the honor of serving on both latter entities.

However, I write to you to express my concern that many of the hard dates included within the water legislation are quite aggressive under the best of circumstances. Given current budget and staffing constraints, particularly for the Conservancy and the Delta Protection Commission, some dates are unattainable and could have unintended outcomes if we rush products for the purpose of meeting deadlines. Deadlines could be met, but I fear that it would be at the expense of overall quality and without sufficient opportunity for robust public input. That said, I do not take delays lightly and I remain committed to maintaining consistency with the intent of the legislative package and to meet all deadlines where possible or when delay would cause harm or significantly disrupt schedules.

I write this letter to ensure open communication with you and your fellow committee members on these important issues. If it becomes clear that approaching deadlines for key products are unattainable, I will make every effort to apprise you of the reasons behind the delay and the expected revised due date.

If you would like to speak further about this topic, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lester A. Snow  
Secretary for Natural Resources

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Baldwin Hills Conservancy • California Coastal Commission • California Coastal Conservancy • California Conservation Corps • California Tahoe Conservancy • Central Valley Flood Protection Board  
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy • Colorado River Board of California • Delta Protection Commission • Delta Stewardship Council • Department of Boating & Waterways • Department of Conservation  
Department of Fish & Game • Department of Forestry & Fire Protection • Department of Parks & Recreation • Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery • Department of Water Resources  
Energy Resources, Conservation & Development Commission • Native American Heritage Commission • Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy • San Diego River Conservancy  
San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission • San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers & Mountains Conservancy • San Joaquin River Conservancy  
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy • Sierra Nevada Conservancy • State Lands Commission • Wildlife Conservation Board



cc: Senator Michael Machado  
Cindy Messer  
Supervisor Don Nottoli  
Supervisor Mary Piepho  
Joe Grindstaff